

11 an encoder to receive the combined audio stream and to generate a
12 second encoded audio stream.

1 19. (AMENDED) A method to combine diversely encoded data streams,
2 comprising:
3 receiving a first data stream in a [first] moving pictures experts group
4 compressed format;
5 decoding the first data stream into [an uncompressed] a linear pulse code
6 modulated format;
7 obtaining a second data stream in the [uncompressed] linear pulse code
8 modulated format; and
9 combining the decoded first data stream with the second data stream.

REMARKS

In the office action of October 25, 2000, claims 1 – 16 and 19 – 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Farhangi et al. Claims 22 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farhangi et al. in view of Bestler et al.

Please note that claims 1, 12, 17, and 19 have been amended. Claim 9 has been cancelled. Claim 1 now recites the limitation of former claim 9. Claims 12, 17, and 20 now recite the limitation of former claim 9 as well. As amended, the claims are not anticipated by the cited art.

As amended, claim 1 recites a method "to combine diversely encoded audio data streams." A first audio data stream is received in a moving pictures experts group (MPEG) based format and decoded into a linear pulse code modulated (LPCM) format, a second audio data stream is obtained in the linear pulse code modulated format, and the decoded first audio data stream is combined with the second audio data stream.

Farhangi discloses mixing audio signals having independent sources. Farhangi does not disclose receiving an audio data stream in an MPEG format and decoding it

into an LPCM format. Nor does Farhangi disclose obtaining a second audio data stream in the LPCM format.

In "Response to Arguments," the office action states that, in Figure 2 of Farhangi, elements 222, 203, and 204 are input sources of signals in a raw data format. Farhangi describes these inputs as MIC-IN, CD-ANALOG, and LINE-ANALOG in the figure. Farhangi further describes element 203 as "com[ing] from serial data streams from any standard CD audio interface" (col. 3, lines 25-26).

Farhangi does not describe these or other input signals to the digital mixer 277 as "linear pulse code modulated," as recited in claim 1. Thus, claim 1 is not anticipated by Farhangi, and is allowable, as amended. Claims 12, 17, and 19 likewise include the "linear pulse code modulated" limitation. These claims are also not anticipated by Farhangi.

Nor does Bestler teach the LPCM limitation recited in the above-mentioned claims. Applicants' claims therefore are not obvious over the cited art.

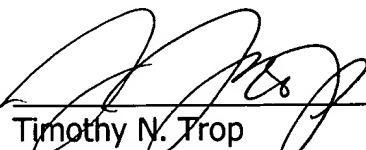
Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of all claim rejections in light of the above arguments. In view of these remarks, the application is now in condition for allowance and the Examiner's prompt action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

12/18/00



Timothy N. Trop
Registration No. 28,994
TROP, PRUNER & HU, P.C.
8554 Katy Freeway, Suite 100
Houston, Texas 77024
(713) 468-8880 [Phone]
(713) 468-8883 [Fax]